GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3945
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2005
FREEDOM FIGHTER PENSION
Singh Shri Ganesh Prasad

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the provision exist with regard to furnishing of a co-prisioner certificate from two leading freedom fighters in case freedom fighter loses court/jail certificate; and;

(b) is so, the details thereof alongwith the percentage of the such freedom fighters being granted pension under these provisions, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT)

(a): As per the provisions of the `Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980` an applicant who claims jail suffering is eligible for grant of Samman Pension provided the following conditions are fulfilled:-

Imprisonment Suffering:- A person who had suffered minimum imprisonment of six months (3 months in case of women, SC/ST freedom fighters) on account of participation in freedom struggle, subject to furnishing of the following evidence: -

(i) Primary evidence:- Imprisonment/ detention certificate from the concerned jail authority, District Magistrate or the State Government indicating the period of sentence awarded, date of admission, date of release, facts of the case and reasons for release.

(ii) Secondary evidence:- In the absence of primary record-based evidence, a Non-Availability of Records Certificate (NARC) from the concerned State Government/ Union Territory Administration along with two co-prisoner certificates (CPCs) from freedom fighters who have proven jail suffering of minimum 1 year, and who were with the applicant in the jail could be considered provided the State Government/Union Territory Administration concerned, after due verification of the claim and its genuineness, certifies that documentary evidence from the official records in support of the claimed suffering was not available. In case the certifier happens to be a sitting or Ex. M.P./ M.L.A., only one certificate in place of the two is required. In the case of participants of INA, only one CPC is required.

The `NARC` is treated valid only when it is furnished by the State Government/Union Territory Administration in the following manner: -

`All concerned authorities of the State Government who could have relevant records in respect of the claim of the applicant, have been consulted and it is confirmed that the official records of the relevant time are not available.`

(b) The Government of India does not maintain the statistics of pension sanctioned to the freedom fighters on the basis of the different types of evidence produced by the freedom fighters.